



# St Bartholomew's News

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

June 2006

## Girls' Choir Kilkenny Trip

Our intrepid editor has asked me to write a report on the recent trip by the Girls' Choir to sing in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. He has assured me that this choice had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the "fact" that I have a "girly" voice!

Though brief, the trip on the third weekend of May was most enjoyable. The highlight of course was the excellent singing (particularly from the girls, but often from the gentlemen too) in a wonderful cathedral building. But we also had a plethora of DVDs (at least 30 were brought, with no less than four portable DVD players between eleven girls!), one Eurovision Song Contest, one Heineken Cup Final, and far too much rainfall. All this in the space of just over twenty-four hours; it seemed like longer, but I think that's a good thing!

It all started off on a quiet Saturday morning in Clyde Road. Members of the choir who had forgotten to have breakfast were able to catch up with the rest of us, who meanwhile had a "quick" go at the Counties of Ireland jigsaw,

learned to juggle or played the piano before leaving bang on time – ish. The journey itself was uneventful apart from some traffic problems in the picturesque town of Athy.

On our arrival all the girls shot straight up the

end of the city for a guided tour of Kilkenny Castle.

Apparently there was a big rugby match in Car-diff in progress at this stage, and some people were lucky enough to catch part of it before evensong practice in the



*The Girls' Choir in front of the altar in St Canice's Cathedral. [Photo courtesy of St Canice's Cathedral]*

very tall round tower beside St Canice's Cathedral like a bolt of upside-down lightning. A picnic lunch in the cathedral grounds was waiting for them on their return (the weather was relatively nice to us on Saturday). After the pink ladies were finished, they ambled to the other

cathedral. Others had to make do with text message updates. Luckily, the match ended just in time for a huge congregation to spill out of local pubs and homes and make it to the cathedral for evensong. Unfortunately, many of them apparently chose not to... Never mind. It's their

## Girls' Choir Kilkenny Trip (continued)

loss. They missed Wise in F and one senior gentleman's favourite anthem, Above



*Discussing how things went after the service.  
[Photo: Richard Bannister]*

all Praise (Mendelssohn). Evensong also featured a special guest appearance by the Vicar, who took charge of the Old Testament reading in his usual style!

After a very nice Ital-



*The author deals with the aftermath of sandwiches! [Photo: Richard Bannister]*

ian dinner, it was Eurovision night. Unfortunately, the girls' favourite, the Lithua-

nian entry, didn't win. The girls' lights went straight out at the end of the programme, and they fell asleep before their heads hit their pillows, exhausted by the day's exertions. They were obviously eager to get a full night's sleep before the tricky singing the next day.

Next morning, we awoke to find that the heavens had opened, so Kilkenny had the strongest power-shower in the world! Luckily, St Canice's has a retractable roof and it was decided that it would be best to

have it closed (oops, sorry, that was the rugby again). This time, a large congregation, including a bus-load of Germans, did make it, in spite of the weather. The singing was very well received by one and all, and we were told that the Mozart was better than in Stuttgart! After several photo-

graphs and a quick picnic (indoors this time), the cars were packed and we set off in a vain attempt to beat the traffic. (It is, it seems, just about possible to fit five adults in a Renault Mégane; those in the back seat should have regained use of their limbs by the time this newsletter goes to print - RB).

Congratulations and thanks to all involved in the



*Lunch in the grounds of St Canice's Cathedral.  
[Photo: Richard Bannister]*

behind-the-scenes work, especially Niamh Harty, Agnes Horan, Robin Heather, all the drivers, and of course Malcolm Wisener, as well as Mark Bowyer, Dean Norman Lynas, and Malcolm Proud of St Canice's Cathedral. Also, thank you to all the girls and men of the choir for coming along and making it such a successful and enjoyable trip.

*Robert Hilliard*

## Parish Pump

### *Musicians and Wanderings*

The recent trips by both choirs may have been the lead stories in these pages, but some of our other parishioners have been among the 'Cantores Vagantes'. Mildred Beresford, freshly returned from the Synod in Armagh, was off to Liverpool with the Tallaght Choral Society for a performance of the Verdi Requiem, while Eoghan Ward travelled to Richmond to play at the Mass to celebrate his aunt's half-century as a nun. We wish her 'ad multos annos'. While our choristers were on duty elsewhere, we were pleased to welcome a small Schola Gregoriana to hold the fort musically.

Father John Cooper preached for us on Ascension Day and was full of praise for the Mozart Missa Brevis. A pity perhaps that only four parishioners, unconnected with the choir or servers (among them our faithful - and elegant - two new nurses) were able to be present that night.

St Bartholomew's was well represented at the proceedings of the Cathedral Organists' Association Residential Conference, where Tim Thurston and the Vicar played a part. Neither were surprised by the enthusiastic approval -

from that body of reference - made to the work of Malcolm Wisener. Peter Barley brought a party to the Summer Concert and was most enthusiastic. It has been good that our two choirs have revived some joint ventures.

### *Friends near and far*

While the Reader, Jason McCann, takes a term off, the parish have been pleased to welcome Stephen Farrell. Stephen, an ordinand from the diocese of Clogher, is training at the Theological College. He is assisting Martin Hilliard.

We will be welcoming Ernest Lennon on parish placement from St Stephen's House in July and August. The Vicar will be on holiday for parts of June and September ("He is never here") in order to facilitate this. Richard Coles, who preached here last year, is being ordained Priest on 2nd July in Lincoln Cathedral ("He" will be at that also!).

Two Irish deacons, Darren McCallig and Niall Sloane, preached at the Solemn Eucharist in Eastertide. It was a joy to welcome them. If candidates of this quality continue to seek ordination, the Church will be well served.

Liza Anderson, from

St Mark's Church, Philadelphia, has been a lively presence among us this year. She is a Mitchell Scholar and has been reading for a Masters of Philosophy at the Irish School of Ecumenics. Next year, as a Fulbright Scholar, she will be teaching Anglican Studies (among other things) at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Liza is exploring vocational paths, perhaps as a deacon or priest or nun. She certainly has much to offer the Church. She has been a great supporter of our Liturgies and of the Christian Study Centre.

We were glad also to welcome Father Godfrey O'Donnell of the Romanian Orthodox Church to speak to the same group. Our other Fulbright visitor, Bob (also from the USA) has much enriched our life here.

John Buckley has



## Parish Pump (continued)

moved to Our Lady's Hospice and is beginning to settle. It is harder for him to get to Church from there but, needless to say, he does not let that defeat him. I wonder if any of us can help?

It is great to see Jerry Smith back in action and June Heather. How does June manage to look elegant when on crutches?

Clive and Lynn, married here last year but resident near Winchester, are regular visitors. They came to the Solemn Eucharist on Easter 7 with the news of a baby! The baptism will be at the Solemn Eucharist at the end of January. This time last year, Rafat and Ida went back to Poland. Tantalizingly they sent a Christmas Card with no return address, but at Easter came greetings to the con-

gregation (Nicholas Williams was a particular favourite) and this time an address! Your greetings have been returned: where would we be without our friends?

### *At the June Vestry Meeting*

David Jones welcomed new and returning members and thanked outgoing ones.

The 2004 and 2005 accounts were approved: Charlie Smith, Albert Horan and Adrian Doak were thanked. The financial situation is stable but not equal to the immediate demands facing the parish. The vestry has put out to tender the essential works of restoration, for which the outline figure is in excess of Euro 500,000 - **all** of which will have to be raised. A working party on the Fabric has been established, comprising all

four wardens and the Honorary Treasurer. A programme of fund-raising activities will be decided at the November meeting of the Vestry. Would parishioners and friends put their minds to this demanding situation and consider making initial donations to launch the fund? Please send any suggestions, in writing, to Select Vestry Members, Fabric Committee Members, or the Honorary Secretary for discussion at the September Vestry, and decision at the November Vestry.

### *In conclusion*

The Patronal Festival Solemn Eucharist will take place on Thursday, 24th August at 7:00pm, followed by a Parish Party. The preacher will be the Reverend Canon Maureen Ryan.

### Address Book

**Vicar: Michael Thompson** ([vicar@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:vicar@stbartholomews.ie))

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Office hours are 10:30-3:30, Wednesday to Friday. Tel 01-6688522.

**Organist and Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL, ARCO**

122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237.

**Choir Secretary: Richard Bannister** ([choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie))

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**Choir Treasurer: Robert Hilliard** ([choir.treasurer@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:choir.treasurer@stbartholomews.ie))

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**Choir Events: Robin Heather** ([choir.events@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:choir.events@stbartholomews.ie))

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### About

*St Bartholomew's News is edited and typeset by Richard Bannister. Submissions for future issues and all enquiries about advertising should be sent to the address on the left. The newsletter is available by post for a nominal charge; for further details, contact the Parish Administrator.*

*A full schedule of services and events is available on the diary page of the parish web site, located at <http://www.stbartholomews.ie/services.htm>.*